

# *Carpinus caroliniana*

## American Hornbeam



Also called blue beech, ironwood, or musclewood. Horizontal, picturesque branching habit. Smooth, dark grey bark, fluted and sinewy that looks like muscles. Fall color can be spectacular orange to red. Does well in partial shade. Difficult to transplant; move balled and burlapped in early spring.

***Suggested companions:*** American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Plant Type: Small Tree

Size: 10-30' H  
20-30' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Forested Upland  
Forested Wetland  
Streambanks

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Rich Moist  
Very Damp/Wet

Exposure: filtered  
shade

Flower Color:  
Green

Bloom Time:  
April  
May

Plant in: Spring

Groundcover: No

Other Attributes:  
Fall color  
Winter interest